

April 8, 2009

TO: PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
FROM: RICHARD BRUNETTE, RECREATION SERVICES MANAGER
SUBJECT: WILSON SKATE PARK UPDATE

Due to safety concerns staff regretfully announces the closure of the Skate Park in Wilson Park at 2200 Crenshaw Boulevard.

The 21,000 square foot, outdoor, lit and staffed skate park was built and operated by the now defunct Torrance Skate Association in 2001. In 2003, after the Skate Association ceased operations, the City took over the park to continue to provide the community with a safe skate facility to enjoy skateboard and inline skating activities and programs.

Torrance residents and City staff are keenly aware that safety is a primary element of the City's efforts to provide parks and recreation facilities, programs and activities to the public. Since the skate park's creation, the wood and skate materials used to construct the various skate elements in the facility have presented numerous maintenance challenges and subsequent safety issues. City staff has diligently inspected, and with regularity made repairs to the facility, in attempts to mitigate and address these issues. This included a major overhaul of the skate park in 2005 of approximately \$20,000.

Upon recent inspection and evaluation by City Community Services and Risk Management staff, it became apparent that years of exposure to the elements has taken its toll on both the external and internal structures of the existing skate elements and that they have reached the end of their effective lifespan. Continued repairs and further spot-patching would be cost prohibitive to effectively maintain safe standards for users of the facility. As such, the skate park will be closed until further notice.

City staff has been investigating options for a new skate facility. In the meantime, the City asks for and appreciates the community's cooperation and support as it works to resolve this matter.

For more information or if interested in participating in future meetings regarding the Skate Park, please contact Community Services Department Senior Recreation Supervisor Carl Kaemerle by phoning (310) 781-7590 or by email at ckaemerle@torrnet.com.